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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

June 26, 2004

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 2095 - ROUTINE)
TAGS: PGOV
Captions: None
Subject: UAE VIEW ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 02095

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: POL
INFO: PAO RSO AMB DCM P/M ECON
Laser1:
INFO: PAO

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: CDA:RALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: POL:RBASSIL
CLEARED: POL:JFMAYBURY

VZCZCADI618
RR RUEHC RUCNDT RUEHZM
DE RUEHAD #2095 1781007
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 261007Z JUN 04
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4854
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1196
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 002095

SIPDIS

STATE FOR DRL, NEA/PI, AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KWMN](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAE VIEW ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

1. THE LATEST EDITION (JUNE 15) OF THE UAE WOMEN'S WEEKLY MAGAZINE "ALMARA'A ALYOU" INTERVIEWS UAE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' DIRECTOR FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS, AHMAD AL-JARMAN, ON THE ISSUE OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE UAEG WILL SIGN THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW), ADOPTED IN 1979 BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

2. THE UAE HAS DELAYED SIGNING THE CEDAW, AL-JARMAN SAID, BECAUSE, LIKE OTHER ARAB ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, THE UAE HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT CERTAIN CLAUSES IN CEDAW, SUCH AS EQUALITY BETWEEN THE TWO GENDERS IN INHERITANCE MATTERS, CHILD ADOPTION (WHICH IS PROHIBITED BY

SHARI'A), AND TRANSMISSION OF CITIZENSHIP FROM A WOMAN TO HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN, WHICH CONTRADICTS NATURALIZATION LAWS IN MANY COUNTRIES. AL-JARMAN ADDED THAT ADJUSTMENTS WOULD BE NECESSARY WITHIN THE SOCIAL SECURITY, FAMILY LAWS, AND ISLAMIC SHARI'A REGULATIONS, IN ORDER FOR THERE TO BE AGREEMENT.

13. HE SAID THAT THE UAE CONSIDERS CEDAW IMPORTANT AND FUNDAMENTAL TO HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ADDED THAT THE UAE IS WITNESSING A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE ROLE OF WOMEN, AND NOTED THAT THE UAE, WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE UAE GENERAL WOMEN'S UNION, IS THE FOUNDER OF THE ARAB WOMAN ORGANIZATION IN EGYPT.

14. AL-JARMAN SAID THAT CEDAW "IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS TOOLS, AND THE UAE COMPLETELY SUPPORTS IT. THERE IS A STRONG CALL FROM OUR SIDE TO INCLUDE WOMEN IN THE PUBLIC, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND POLITICAL LIFE, AND THESE FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO THE NECESSITY OF US BEING MEMBERS OF THIS AGREEMENT."

15. AL-JARMAN SAID THAT THE UAE FACES A NUMBER OF OBSTACLES AS IT CONSIDERS WHETHER TO SIGN CEDAW. HE SAID THAT WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS HAVE NOT YET RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH MFA, PREFERRING TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH HIGHER AUTHORITIES BECAUSE OF THE ISSUE'S SENSITIVITY. ALBRIGHT